

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /102 W

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R 062225Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1213

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 1073

1. DURING MY DISCUSSION WITH FORNMIN FEB 6 HE BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF GOC TREATY RIGHTS IN THE PANAMA CANAL AND STATED THAT THE GOC WOULD MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT EITHER TOMORROW OR THE NEXT DAY CALLING ATTENTION TO THE RIGHTS WHICH THEY ENJOY UNDER THE 1914 TREATY AND POINTING OUT THAT AMB BOTERO HAD REAFFIRMED THE COLOMBIAN POSITION WITH THE DEPARTMENT. THE FORNMIN ADDED THAT HE HOPED THAT WE COULD REPLY TO THE GOC'S NOTE OF DEC 13/71.

2. I RESPONDED THAT WHILE I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE, I FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW COLOMBIA COULD EXPECT THE US TO GIVE UP OUR RIGHTS IN RELATION TO THE PANAMA CANAL AND EXPECT US AT THE SAME TIME TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF COLOMBIA. I ASKED IF THIS WAS NOT PRIMARILY THE TASK OF COLOMBIA.

3. THE FORNMIN RESPONDED THAT BASICALLY HE AGREED WITH ME AND THAT HE WAS NOT SAYING THAT HE WOULD NOT GIVE UP THE RIGHTS OF COLOMBIA BUT THIS HAD TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVTS.

4. COMMENT: I BELIEVE I AM ASSESSING THE SITUATION CORRECTLY WHEN I SAY THAT VAZQUEZ DID NOT INTEND TO RESPOND SO CANDIDLY REGARDING COLOMBIA'S OBJECTIVES. I BELIEVE THAT GIVEN THIS POSITIVE
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AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL AND TIMELY IF AT

AN EARLY DATE A REP OF OUR NEGOTIATING TEAM COULD COME TO COLOMBIA
AND DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH VAZQUEZ. MY IMPRESSION IS THAT
VAZQUEZ UNDERSTANDS THAT COLOMBIA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HANG ON
TO COLOMBIAN TREATY RIGHTS BUT THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FROM THE GOC'S
POINT OF VIEW THAT THIS BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE US AND THAT WE
NOT PROCEED AS IF COLOMBIA'S RIGHTS IN THE CANAL EITHER DID
NOT EXIST OR DID NOT MATTER. WHITE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, PANAMA CANAL TREATY, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BOGOTA01073
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740253/aaaabxmw.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOC TREATY RIGHTS IN THE PANAMA CANAL
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CO, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005